

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 9, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 p.m.

INVOCATION: Father John Plavcan – St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

All seven members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated December 9, 2014.

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2014. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Widing. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Pettit had two items from his committee. The first comes out of the Plan Commission meeting. Last Tuesday we had a presentation regarding the resubdivision for fifteen lots in the Foxmoor subdivision. As a part of that we got into a long discussion about the bonding of the roads that have been already installed, but not yet accepted into the Town's inventory. Mr. Pettit recommended, as Plan Commission President, to his colleagues, that we bring this to the Council. He presented a detailed, written record of what the developer intends to do. The developer is buying the development from the bank and wants to begin building single family homes. He wants to put up bonds for the infrastructure in phases, which we don't necessarily have a problem with. This is in Mr. Goralczyk's ward, but Mr. Pettit wanted to bring it to the entire Council so we all know what's going on. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the letter of credit in the amount of \$51,498 for the phase one of the Foxmoor subdivision improvements as well as the report from our Town Engineer, Sedrick Green from Robinson Engineering. Mr. Pettit's motion was seconded by Mr. Widing. The motion was approved by at roll call vote, 7/0.

The second item is the U.S. 30 Frontage Road license for access and maintenance. As council members will recall, we vacated lots on the frontage road at the old Wickes. There is a preliminary subdivision pending in front of the Plan Commission. There will be a demolition of the Wickes building and a new building constructed that will house furniture. We vacated those lots because INDOT is closing that frontage road, but we talked to Vequity Stonebridge about maintaining that road in the meantime until a demolition permit is pulled and that road is redone as part of their development. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the license for access and maintenance between the Town of Merrillville and Vequity Stonebridge Merrillville, LLC for the frontage road on U.S. 30. Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was passed by a roll call vote, 7/0.

Mr. Hardaway met with a representative from Glenwood Manor last week. They are in the process of the final phases of putting in street lights and the things they need to do to start an HOA and turn that over. As soon as they finish the street lights and any other small things that they have to do, then, hopefully, they will come to us and request that the Town take over the streets.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Spann had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Goralczyk announced December 5th was the last day to accept applications for the Parks Director. There were 37 applicants. At this time he would like to have the personnel committee review the applications.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Widing had no report but asked the Police Chief to share information on the consolidation. Mr. Petruch stated as of January 1st, the employees will no longer be our employees, but they will still be working in our facility and we will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of anything technical that happens in there. Hopefully we'll have an easy transition, but we recognized there may be bumps in the road along the way.

Mrs. Barron brought up the recent article in the Times newspaper, noting that it contained inaccurate information regarding tax money used for the funding of police vehicles.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mr. Spann stated the park equipment for Stefek Park and Savannah Ridge is in and is currently stored the north barn and will be installed in the spring.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Miano announced the success of the community coats program. Since the start of the program two weeks ago we have helped seven families in need.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Goralczyk had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron thanked all for the continuing success of the cap collection program.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION:

Mrs. Miano had no report.

ADA COMPLIANCES:

Mrs. Miano had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway noted we had a good meeting last week with Senator Randolph. We will have another meeting January 21st at 10:00 a.m. We want to discuss some particulars as we continue to move forward.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-35: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating monies within the Computer Training Center Fund for the year 2014 not included in the current budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 7/0.

Ord. 14-36: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 14-36 and fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2015. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 7/0.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 14-62: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within the Recycling Grant Fund budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve the resolution and Mrs. Barron seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-63: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within certain categories. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-64: A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2014 budget within the Rental Registration Fund budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-65: A resolution supporting participation in the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Clean Community Challenge. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Spann seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 14-66: A SPECIAL RESOLUTION approving and authorizing certain actions and proceedings with respect to certain proposed economic development bonds. Mrs. Miano opened a public hearing. There was no public comment. Mr. Pettit made a motion to close public hearing and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion to close the public hearing was approved by a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Spann seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote, 7/0.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Goralczyk relayed that the Parks Master Plan was discussed yesterday at the Pruzin Center. It will need to be adopted at the Town Council meeting on the 23rd because it's due downstate on January 5th.

Mr. Spires announced the Salvation Army has asked the Town Council to take over a kettle for a day. This Friday is designated as municipal volunteer day and other local cities and towns are getting involved in this event. The kettle at Strack's on 73rd is the site selected for our participation. Anyone wishing to participate should let Bruce know to schedule times.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Plan Commission Public meeting, December 16, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Council meeting, December 23, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.

Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, January 21, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Spann. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Carol Miano, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer